

CASTLETON (Lancs.)

Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year 1897.

Castleton :-

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Castleton (Lanes.) Urban District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1897.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the following report of the health and sanitary condition generally of the district for the year ending December 31st, 1897.

Death Rate.

The total number of deaths registered in the district during the past year was 94. Of these, however, 6 deaths occurred in persons not belonging to the district. Two of these occurred in the Marland Hospital, one of these was due to Typhoid Fever, and the other to Pneumonia. Of the others one death, in an infant, was due to premature birth. The other three deaths were the result of accidents. Besides these 6 deaths, occurring in persons not belonging to the district, one other death was due to injuries sustained on the railway.

True Death Rate.

Excluding these 7 deaths the number remaining, 87, is equal to an annual death rate of 11·6 per thousand, calculated on a population of 7,500.

The death rate for the previous year was 13·5 per thousand.

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths in children under 1 year of age, including premature births was 21, compared with 19 for the previous year, giving an infantile mortality of 11·5 per cent of the number born during the year ; against a mortality of 14·2 per cent last year.

Months of Greatest and Least Mortality.

The greatest mortality occurred during the months of March and December, when the death rate amounted to 16·1 per thousand. The lowest mortality was in the month of July, viz : 6·4 per thousand. Arranged according to their ages in the groups prescribed by the Registrar General, there are :—

Under 1 year of age	-	-	-	-	21 deaths.
Between 1 year of age and 5 years of age	-				13 „
„ 5 „	15	„	-		3 „
„ 15 „	25	„	-		4 „
„ 25 „	65	„	-		24 „
Over 65 years of age	-	-	-	-	22 „
					<hr/>
					87 „
					<hr/>

Birth Rate.

The total number of births registered in the district during the year was 182 ; 101 males and 81 females. This is equal to an annual birth rate of 24·2 per thousand of the population. The birth rate for the previous year was 20 per thousand.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES :===

Of the notifiable Zymotic Diseases, 18 cases, comprising 6 of Scarlet Fever, 4 of Diphtheria, 5 cases of Typhoid Fever, and 3 of Erysipelas were notified during the year, with a mortality of 5. In addition to these, 9 deaths were due to Diarrhœa. The total mortality for the 7 principal zymotic diseases was thus 14, representing a zymotic death rate of 1·86 per thousand of the population.

Scarlet Fever.

Six cases of this disease were notified during the year. These all occurred during the months of September, October and November. One death was due to this disease.

Diphtheria.

Four cases of this disease were notified during the year and three deaths were due to this cause. One death was certified as due to Membraneous Croup which I have included under this heading. The cases occurred in a scattered manner. Two occurred in the East Ward and two in the West Ward.

Typhoid Fever.

Five cases of Typhoid Fever were reported during the year. Two of these were probably imported cases as in both cases the persons affected developed the disease soon after a prolonged absence from home. Two cases occurred in one house where the drains were found to be in a defective condition. One case occurred in the Sudden portion of the district. All the cases occurred in the West Ward. Two cases were removed to hospital for treatment.

Diarrhœa.

Nine deaths were due to Diarrhœa, 8 of these occurring in children under 5 years of age.

Phthisis.

Six deaths were due to Pulmonary Consumption, which is equal to a death rate from this cause of $\cdot 8$ per thousand.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.

Fifteen deaths were caused by diseases of the Respiratory Organs, Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy, excluding Phthisis. This is only one half the number certified as due to this cause for the previous year.

From the above summary it will be seen that the general death rate is a very low one, viz: 11·6 per thousand. This is the lowest rate recorded since the formation of a Sanitary Authority for the district.

This may be explained, partly by the very low Infantile Mortality which again is due to the absence of any epidemic of Whooping Cough ; or Scarlatina ; during the year.

It is also partly due to the very small mortality from diseases of the Respiratory Organs.

This fact may be accounted for by the unprecedented mildness of the weather during the last few months of the year.

With regard to the work done by me during the year ; I have visited all the premises where outbreaks of infectious disease have occurred. I have also inspected, with Mr. Webster, most of the premises in connection with which it was found necessary to serve notices for the abatement of nuisances, the number of these amounted to 38.


I have also regularly inspected the three Slaughter Houses in the District and the dairies and cowsheds, &c.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W. H. SHARPLES, D. P. H.,

Medical Officer of Health.



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